

SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source



Greetings!

It's hard to believe: The City of Sandy Springs will have its fourth birthday on December 1st. A lot has been accomplished in this short period!

While paying exactly the same tax rate as when we were unincorporated Fulton County, we've tripled the number of police officers—the most important ingredient to protect our public safety. In the meantime, under the leadership of Chief Jack McElfish and the Emory University

Department of Emergency Medicine, the Fire Rescue Department has adopted the most advanced life saving techniques in the entire metro area.

An amazing 69 miles of roads were repaved, as compared to almost none under Fulton County, and six miles of new sidewalks were installed. The Abernathy Parkway, which Senator Johnny Isakson initiated some 20 years ago, is finally under construction, and will feature a linear park, adding elegant green promenades in the heart of the City.

New turn lanes, imaginative restriping to add turn lanes, a central Traffic Management Center that automatically adjusts traffic signals to accommodate changing traffic conditions and the addition of visible street and traffic signs have all alleviated traffic congestion. Of course, much remains to be done in this area.

Sandy Springs struggled in its first year of existence to gain title to its park lands. With the generous contribution from the Sandy Springs Society, all the park land was obtained at the cost of \$15,872. Today, the City is embarking on major improvements at the various Morgan Falls park sites. More playing fields and new stands will serve the many youth teams at the athletic fields. At the Overlook Park, possibly the most scenic area that overlooks the river in all of Sandy Springs, picnic sites and playgrounds should be in place by spring 2010. At the Morgan Falls River landing, a temporary dog park is in place, and eventually this too will become a spot of rare beauty.

Not only is new green space being made available for public use, but the variety and accessibility of recreational programs has skyrocketed. Finally, the common sense arrangement of using school athletic facilities by the public when not in use by the schools has been formalized. Children not previously served now have new athletic programs.

Forbes magazine listed Sandy Springs 15th among the top 25 places to live in the United States. This is a fabulous recognition! But we won't rest on our laurels. Why not strive to be number one? Among our unfinished business is improving traffic congestion in the heart of downtown Sandy Springs because the Roswell Road bridge over I-285 accommodates only three left turners and holds up traffic in both directions. We shall ramp up pressure on the Georgia Department of Transportation to address this. The Roswell bridge is the oldest one on the entire I-285 loop, and needs to be rebuilt NOW!

Traffic tends to become a parking lot on Hammond Drive in the middle of the day. This too is an urgent issue that needs fixing. The two new ramps from Ga. 400 to Hammond Drive, for which groundbreaking takes place this fall, will add more vehicles to Hammond Drive. I am urging the Georgia Tollway Authority to help us finance the widening of Hammond Drive since legislation provides that excess Tollway funds must be spent on Ga. 400 or roads leading to it.

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City Launches Water Conservation Incentive Program

The City of Sandy Springs City Council unanimously voted to pass a new water conservation permit incentive program in June. The goal of the program is to underscore the value of all water on a building site. They felt site planning and design should be based on the understanding that water is a valuable natural resource that should be used conservatively, cleaned and reused on-site.

"I am very pleased that the City of Sandy Springs is a leader in water conservation by providing incentives to builders when they incorporate water saving plumbing in construction and landscaping," said Mayor Eva Galambos. "This goes way beyond low flow toilets—it is truly a way to address water shortages that must be avoided if the Atlanta area is to continue to grow."

Builders in residential construction may choose from a menu of options. If they meet the criteria, a specific "turtle" will be awarded based on the items they successfully complete. The "turtle system" has been adopted because the City's mascot is the Eastern box turtle. They will be awarded a level ranging from the

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Sandy Springs Firefighter Rescue Technician II/Paramedic Craig Miceli packs up his Advanced Hemorrhage Control Pack, which consists of tourniquets, a device that stops bleeding or blood flow by compressing blood vessels; QuickClot, the advanced hemostatic agent; and the Israeli Trauma Dressings or emergency dressings.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Uses Battlefield Technology

In the United States, loss of blood, or hemorrhaging, is the main cause of death, second only to trauma injuries. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue (SSFR) has added two technologies to their treatment arsenal to help stem the tide of blood loss in pre-hospital situations: tourniquets and advanced hemostatic agents such as “QuikClot” or “HemCon.”

SSFR answered approximately 7,300 medical calls last fiscal year. In many cases patients are bleeding and direct pressure with gauze dressings may fail to the control bleeding. Lessons learned from battlefield medicine in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought back the use of tourniquets and advanced hemostatic

agents. “This was once considered a last resort,” said Matthew Bitner, MD, medical director for SSFR. “However, new guidelines have shown a renewed interest in these techniques—they are temporary but effective measures to get patients to the hospital alive. The candidates are those who have life and limb threatening hemorrhages, where traditional methods of bleeding control have failed.”

SSFR’s Advanced Hemorrhage Control Pack consists of tourniquets, which is a device, usually a band of rubber, that stops bleeding or blood flow by compressing blood vessels; the advanced hemostatic agents; and Israeli Trauma Dressings or emergency dressings.

The advanced hemostatic agents are usually made of a silica or chitosan type material, a product derived from shrimp shells. In chitosan-based products, the positively charged chitosan molecules attract negatively charged red blood cells. As the cells are pulled into the bandage, they create a tight-fitting plug over the wound. Israeli Trauma Dressings are important because they are a combat proven system used for staunching the flow of blood from traumatic hemorrhagic wounds in emergency situations.

“While the wound patterns of penetrating trauma seen in our soldiers differ from those seen in civilian EMS operations, the problem of hemorrhage control remains the same,” said Dr. Bitner. “It is essential to equip our emergency responders with effective tools to control hemorrhage and stabilize a patient in the pre-hospital environment.”

Recreation Department Receives Arts Council Grant



Participants in Kids and Arts will enjoy classroom-based art-making experiences, such as a sculpture, (shown above). Art specialists and classroom teachers will work together to address different learning styles and techniques for each child.

The City of Sandy Springs and Fulton County Schools are once again collaborating on programs that will benefit children in Sandy Springs. The City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department was awarded a Fulton County Arts Council grant for \$6,500 in matching funds. A total of \$13,000 will be allotted for cultural art assemblies, workshops and summer camp residencies at participating Fulton County Schools.

Funding will be used to provide art assemblies and workshops through Young Audiences Woodruff Art Center. Through Young Audiences, students can experience dance, theater, literary arts, music and visual arts while learning important values and skills including character building, cooperation and diversity.

The workshops will present hands-on activities that will offer the 20-30 students per class an opportunity to have classroom-based art-making experiences. Art specialists and classroom teachers will work together to address different learning styles and techniques.

Kids & Arts will present two residencies also during summer 2010 at North Springs Charter School. The projects will target teens ages 14-17 with an in-depth, hands-on artistic experience. A maximum of 30 students will participate in each residency. Artists will also be obtained through Young Audiences.

Kids & Arts is designed to introduce approximately 2,500 students to a variety of artisans working in visual and literary mediums over the course of a 12-month time period. The Recreation and Parks Department is partnering with Sandy Springs Middle School, Lake Forest Elementary and Woodland Elementary. Also, two five-day art residencies for high school students are going to be located at North Springs Charter School.

“The Kids & Arts Program presents a way into the arts for children who may never, perhaps, be naturally inclined to the arts or feel that various kinds of art forms are for them,” said Ronnie Young, director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Sandy Springs. “The program allows art to be more accessible and opens doors for the Recreation and Parks Department and public school system to work together in developing cultural and creative practices by increasing community access and inclusiveness.”

Detective Warns: Don't Be a Victim of Opportunistic Crime

Sandy Springs Police Detective Michael Bailey has seen a lot in his three-plus decades of police work. But, he says, if you scam the elderly or those who work hard for their money, "I'll go after you." And that's just what he did on a case that led him to a perpetrator with a long rap sheet who was a substitute teacher at a local school.

Shortly after the substitute teacher began working at the school, teachers and office personnel began to notice things weren't adding up. Then, a coach noticed petty cash missing from his desk. This was followed by a teacher having a check stolen from her purse and cashed for \$525.

"We reviewed the history of checks cashed and determined the check in question had been stolen from my wife's purse at her place of employment, which is located in Sandy Springs," said John Hodge. "Four days after our initial conversation [with Detective Bailey] and six business days, he made an arrest. Further, the theft of our funds revealed that no less than \$2,500 had been illegally taken by the accused during the past few months and her escapades would have continued."

"She was an opportunistic thief," said Det. Bailey. "If she saw a pocketbook, she stole from it. It's so important in the workplace not to leave your valuables in plain sight, or if they are in a drawer, that you lock them up. Even at home: take your valuables upstairs, don't leave them on kitchen counters."

"We have to be more observant. It's tough to say, but we need to be less trusting and open. You never know what someone is going to do."

The accused is awaiting trial on three felony counts. She could be sentenced from one – 10 years on each count as she has a prior felony conviction.

"Having had the honor of serving a community as mayor, I am aware of how constituents and others are quick to inform you of negative concerns. Thank you for this outstanding service," Mr. Hodge added.

New Festival Fun



Mayor Eva Galambos greets residents of Sandy Springs at the Festival. This year's Sandy Springs Festival promises to have something fun for everyone: art, antiques, dog lovers, antique cars, business information, food and more. You can find it at the Heritage site on September 26-27, 2009.

Peachtree Road Race qualifier. The Sandy Springs Festival supports the mission and activities of Heritage Sandy Springs by fostering a community-wide tradition. For more information, visit www.sandyspringsfestival.com.

This year's Sandy Springs Festival will be held September 26-27, 2009. The event is a yearly fundraiser benefiting Heritage Sandy Springs, a non-profit organization serving North Fulton and other nearby communities. Better than ever and in its 24th year, the revamped two-day event features live entertainment, children's games and rides, heritage crafters, a juried and judges artist market, antique fair, collector car show, a Georgia food court and more! The event kicks off with a 10K road race, which is a



Beware of Scams

Detective Michael Bailey of the Sandy Springs Police Department warns scams are everywhere. Scammers are people who try to get you to invest in their scheme in one way or another, only to disappear and offer you no payback for what you have given them—whether it is time, money or information. There is the Nigerian scam, the car selling scam, jury duty scam, work from home scam, the Western Union scam and many, many more.

- Bottom line: most of the scams come via e-mail. If you don't know the sender, don't open the e-mail.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone.
- Watch your valuables in the supermarket or other public places.
- Never send cash in the mail.

As always, if you think it's too good to be true, it probably is. If you have any questions, visit www.spamlaws.com or contact the Sandy Springs Police Department administrative line at 770-551-6900 during working hours.





Sandy Springs Building Inspector Robert Floyd checks water heaters in new residential construction. By placing water heaters close to the kitchen or bath, the water has less distance to travel, resulting in a reduced amount of waste. These heaters feature a water circulation pump on the side that allows a continuous flow of hot water to reduce the time needed for hot water to get to the faucet.

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Bronze Turtle on one end through to Silver, Gold and Platinum Turtle on the other end. Examples of the criteria include:

- Replace or install all fixtures with low-flow plumbing fixtures: 1.3 gpf or less water closets, 1.5 gpm lavatory faucets and 2.0 gpm showerheads.
- Replace or install landscaping with Xeriscape applications as described in the State of Georgia Water Conservation Implementation Plan.
- Install an interior gray water system.
- Utilize water-efficient irrigation systems that use drip or subsurface delivery methods, tailor irrigation to weather conditions and measure soil moisture.

Fee rebates are determined on type of construction and may not include some administrative fees.

"The goal of this program is to have a minimum reduction of 10 percent in water usage for residential construction projects," said City Manager John McDonough. "We hope that builders and residential customers start thinking about the efficient locations of water heaters and further, the installation of low volume dishwashers and high efficiency clothes washers as well as landscaping that is drought resistant. If we get in this mindset, it will serve us well into the future."

World Water Monitoring Day Comes to Sandy Springs

World Water Monitoring Day™ (WWMD) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. This year, you can make a difference, right here in Sandy Springs.

An easy-to-use test kit enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies for a core set of water quality parameters including temperature, acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity) and dissolved oxygen (DO). Results are shared with participating communities around the globe through the WWMD Web site. World Water Monitoring Day is officially celebrated on September 18th; however, the monitoring window was extended for the first time in 2009 from this past March 22nd (World Water Day) until December 31, 2009.

The coordinators of WWMD hope to expand participation to one million people in 100 countries by 2012. It's easy—all you have to do is: Register your location; prepare your monitoring equipment; monitor your location; and report your data.

To order test kits and/or report your data, visit <http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/index.html>. The deadline for submitting data to the WWMD database is December 31, 2009.

Introducing Overlook Park

Overlook Park will be a beautiful addition to the City of Sandy Springs. The park master plan includes a pavilion, swings, play area, boat dock, boat storage, open green space and areas planted with native riparian vegetation. The plan also calls for the chimney that is on the site to be saved. The City, working with the Sandy Springs Conservancy, is currently studying the historical significance of the chimney to appropriately interpret its importance for the visiting public. The Mayor and City Council expect a report soon from the Sandy Springs Conservancy who commissioned the archeological assessment that is being conducted of the chimney area. The results of the report are expected to help shed light on the period, use and former owners of the chimney site.

Mayor's Letter, continued from cover

Another unfinished issue for all of us is our water service from the City of Atlanta. The overarching issue of access to the water of Lake Lanier is in the hands of the Governor and our Congressional delegation. I refer to the continuing injustice of Sandy Springs residents paying a 21 percent penalty on their water bills (on top of all the recent rate hikes) to the City of Atlanta. Our water revenue is used by Atlanta to offset its huge obligations on its sewer system upgrade. Since Sandy Springs is served by the Fulton County sewer system, in effect our water/sewer bills are paying for TWO systems. Be prepared to hear more in the coming months regarding Sandy Springs initiatives on this water issue.

As you can see, we have had an incredible four years. Stay tuned for more.

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600